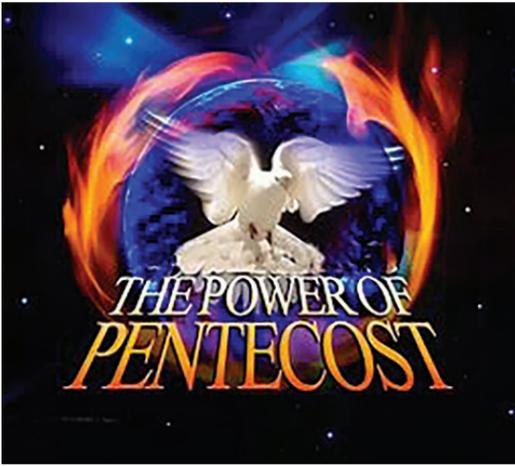


Christmas. Easter. . . . Pentecost? What's That???

This coming Sunday is Pentecost Sunday. Have you ever heard of it? Do you know what it's about?



"Pentecost is from the Greek word 'Pentekostos', which means 'fifty'. It's the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover week and in Judaism is called the Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:16)." (From christiantoday.com)

Why should we care about a Jewish feast or any event on their calendar? Actually, those of us who believe and who try to live our lives in obedience to God should care about Pentecost as much as or more than any other "holiday" or religious observance.

Christmas and Easter have been utterly corrupted by the popular culture, turning them into "Gimme" events, where spoiled kids who have too much stuff already expect, and usually get, more stuff and goodies.

In relative obscurity, Pentecost has escaped much of that distortion and corruption. Here is the story from the Bible that tells why it should be of central importance to us.

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like

a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" (Acts 2)

When Jesus was still with His disciples, He promised them that He would send to them His Holy Spirit. He promised that even though He was leaving them to be with our Father in Heaven, He would leave His Holy Spirit with them as a counsellor, a comforter, and source of His truth:

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for

he dwells with you and will be in you. . . . "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (John 14)

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. . . . "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have

been with me from the beginning. (John 15)

Pentecost is arguably the most important event that we could ever celebrate. We ourselves weren't placed here on earth when Jesus was here, teaching, healing, and training His disciples.

But we are given His Holy Spirit to do the same for us!

This old world is a tough place to be, and it's getting tougher by the day as we near the end of the world as we know it. Already we are witnessing things we can hardly believe – the descent into insanity before our very eyes! Can you believe that a whole group of elite leaders of our country actually seriously say that a man can have monthly periods and can get pregnant? Or that a biological male can become a female via a surgical procedure? Really??

And that's on top of the deliberate take-down of our country, our way of life, our very basic needs to survive. Soon, if not already, we won't be able to afford gasoline, food, clothing, and rent or house payments. We don't have enough baby formula for our infants, yet pallets and pallets are being stored and used for illegals storming our borders!



Our government is seemingly pushing a potential nuclear war with Russia, fanning the flames of hatred and destruction among many nations in Europe and the Middle East.

What's that got to do with the coming of the Holy Spirit? Everything! I see a tsunami of evil coming at us with all of this nasty stuff churning in the water, ready to roll right over us. What defense, what stability do we have against all of that? The ONLY strength we have to resist and to survive the tsunami come from the Holy Spirit, the gift from God to give us sound eyes to see His Reality and Truth.

He is our Island in this mega-storm. Cling to Him tightly for safety, salvation, and eternal life!

Linda Gammel

Disappointed With God?

Ray Bentley Ministries

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS
We honor Pastor Ray's life by continuing to share the daily devotions he prepared for you, his precious readers.



"Your will be done."—
Matthew 26:42, Luke 11:2

Those can be hard words to get out. Even Jesus struggled before He prayed to His Father, "Your will be done" in the Garden of Gethsemane.

They're hard because we're afraid. Afraid that even though we've fervently prayed over a certain matter, what we want is not what God wants—and it is hard to let go of strong desires, especially when we are praying for someone we love or a situation like a life threatening illness.

Feeling like God has let us down is one of the greatest challenges to our faith.

Philip Yancey observes, "Some people lose their faith because of a sharp sense of disappointment with God. They expect God to act in a certain way, and God 'lets them down.' Others may not lose their faith, but they too experience disappointment. They believe God will intervene, they pray for a miracle, and their prayers come back unanswered."¹



Then we feel guilty and wonder, "What would other believers think of me if they knew I was disappointed with God or even angry with Him? Worse yet, what does God think?"

He knows we are human!

Several stories in Scripture address this issue in various ways. Mary and Martha were disappointed that Jesus didn't come to them when He first heard their brother Lazarus was ill (John 11). The desperate father of an ill son who was afraid to expect a miracle, cried, "Help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24). Elijah challenged evil and called fire down from heaven. Afterward, he sat under a tree, depressed, and praying to die (1 Kings 19).

In each instance the Lord responded to the need, often in unexpected ways—not necessarily the way those who prayed thought things should go, but in ways that reminded them of His unfailing love and providence. God's answers are always intended to draw us closer to Him and help us grow deeper in our faith.

Don't ever be afraid to pray, "Your will be done." Even when it means something hard is ahead. Jesus knew it meant the Cross – but He also knew the joy of accomplishing His purpose on this earth. Never be afraid to commit an unknown future to the God who knows the future, who loves you and wants to bless you with an abundant, meaningful life.

¹Yancey, Philip, *Disappointment With God* (Zondervan, 1988) p. 26.



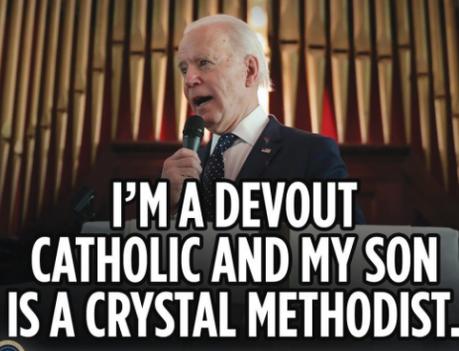
On The Lighter Side . . . Contributed from the Web

We shall take a selfie, as the humans do.



TOP ANALYSIS, MEMES, AND CARTOONS AT PATRIOTPOST.US

MY FAMILY IS VERY RELIGIOUS.



TOP ANALYSIS, MEMES, AND CARTOONS AT PATRIOTPOST.US

"BLIND BELIEF IN AUTHORITY IS THE GREATEST ENEMY OF TRUTH."

—ALBERT EINSTEIN

"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong."

—1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

FOR OBJECTIVE AND UNCENSORED ANALYSIS: PATRIOTPOST.US

THE PATRIOT POST IS CLOSED ON SUNDAY



Amir Tsarfati of Behold Israel had this comment on the recent eclipse of the super-blood-moon:

A spectacular full moon graced the night sky on Sunday night. It was not only a super moon, but also a blood moon -- thanks to a lunar eclipse.

According to Joel 2:31 a much stronger manifestation of this phenomenon accompanied with a darkened sun will be in the skies right before God will judge the world during the tribulation. Not every blood moon, as unique as it may be, is a mark of the tribulation.

For the tribulation to start the antichrist must rise into power and for him to do so the restrainer, the Holy Spirit that is in the believers, namely the church, must be taken out of the way. Please stay focused on the Word without taking anything out of context!